

# Child care capacity increases with new Vogelweh Child Development Center



*The new Child Development Center in the Vogelweh Housing area opened in May, and significantly increases child care opportunities for military families in the Kaiserslautern military community.*

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**B**rightly colored toys, stuffed animals, and baby cribs fill the new Child Development Center in the Vogelweh Family Housing area. Europe District completed construction on the facility in March and a grand opening ceremony was held in May, marking the official opening of the \$2.6 million center.

The new facility provides care for 100 infants and toddlers, ranging from 6-weeks to 3-years of age, and significantly increases child care opportunities for families in the greater Kaiserslautern military community.

“We’ve increased our child care capacity in Vogelweh threefold,” said Center Director Maggie Machesky. “This new center has a lot more room which means we’re now able to offer care for more children in different age groups.”

The new center has nine child care rooms — one for infants 6-weeks to 6-months of age, two rooms for infants 13-to-24 months of age, and four rooms for toddlers

2-to-3 years of age.

“Before we moved into this new facility, we had only two rooms to care for infants and toddlers from 6-months to 2-years,” said Machesky. “We weren’t able to offer care for infants younger than 6-months. Now we’re able to care for infants as young as 6-weeks.”

Machesky added that along with three additional infant rooms, another care room was created for 2-year-olds which allows the center the ability to care for 14 more children in that age group.

The new center is equipped with a large lobby, a drop-off and pick up area, an isolation and training room, a full-size kitchen, laundry facilities, air-conditioning, and heated flooring.

A video-monitoring system is also available in the lobby for parents to view care room activities.

Skylights, protective interior glass walls, and large windows give the center an open, airy feeling. The large windows also provide a clear view of the full playground.

“The playground is quite large and offers something for children of all ages,” said Machesky. “The sunscreens and awnings attached to the building outside also cover part of the playground which offers protection for the children.”



***Vogelweh Child Development Center Director Maggie Machesky reviews some paperwork with Desk Clerk Angela Crayton. The new center opened in May and is located in the Vogelweh Family Housing area. The center provides care for 100 infants and toddlers ranging from 6-weeks to 3-years of age.***

The Vogelweh Child Development Center employs 30 care givers, two desk clerks, a trainer and the director.

Europe District began construction on the project in December 1996. The work was completed by the construction firm Bauwens GmbH with the assistance of the German Staatsbauamt Kaiserslautern.

Europe District Project Engineer Hans Hooch managed construction of the project working with USAFE Project Manager Jim Frishkorn, USAFE Civil Engineering Directorate.



***Europe District Project Engineer Hans Hooch managed construction of the new Vogelweh Child Development Center. Hooch is pictured below, checking the video monitoring system located in the lobby of the facility. The monitoring system allows parents to view the activities.***